

REMARKS

This third supplemental amendment following the interview with the Examiner clarifies the inventive concepts of the flash memory card and socket. Claims 138, 144 and 158 have been amended.

The claims directed to the memory card and socket are advanced because the Applicant understands that there were no flash memory card devices held in sockets with the engagement feature of the card and the actuation of the socket as claimed. The present application has priority over the following basic designs and concepts filed several years later, exemplified by U.S. Patents: D453,934, filed May 4, 2001; D459,355, filed Sep 17, 2001; D 525,248, filed July 17, 2003; and 6,381,143, filed Sep 2000.


There have recently been telephone interchanges with Examiner Tran. Examiner Tran afforded Applicant the courtesy of a call to inform us that claim 100 and claims depending therefrom were allowable but that the remainder of the claim set was not allowable. A further phone call, initiated by the undersigned, was made to find out if there were features that formed the basis for the allowance. This was sought to see if additional pending claims could be amended to gain allowance. The Examiner indicated that the activation as set forth in claim 100 supported patentability. Applicant indicated that a number of claims could be dropped if focus could be directed to claim 157. Applicant has requested by phone message that any information regarding further art might help Applicant resolve remaining issues. The Examiner has again courteously agreed to talk by phone on Thursday.

Applicant has reviewed the claims remaining at issue and does not understand the patentable difference between a number of the claims, e.g., claim 79, and allowable claim 100 and is, therefore, not yet in a position to advance a proposal to resolve issues regarding allowance of additional claims. Claim 157, however, is not limited to the activation and raises separate issues. Claim 138 has been amended to also address the subject matter common to claim 157. Regarding claims 138 and 157, there were no flash memory card devices held in sockets with the engagement feature of the card and the actuation of the socket as claimed to the Applicant's understanding prior to this invention. These claims have been written with the prior art in mind, given that flash memory cards were newly applied with the present invention.

Entry of the above amendment is requested along with further consideration of the amended claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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